

Funds may fall short for dam demolition



Photos by KEN OSBURN / Staff, graphics by SUZIE RIDDLE / Staff
While land clearing is under way to prepare a place to bring sediment dredged from Twelve Mile River, there's no money for the removal of the Easley-Central dam, left, that is upstream from the two Woodside dams ordered removed.

DAM

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aside from the settlement to go toward the dam's removal, the final decision rests with the trustees of the settlement. The judge said, however, that he could exercise veto power over their decision.

Trustees will have to get together and discuss the judge's recommendation, said Ross Self, state Department of Natural Resources freshwater fisheries chief and chairman of the settlement trustees' council.

The public also will have input. A workshop-style public meeting date is scheduled on Nov. 17 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Anderson Civic Center, Self said.

The public also can provide input by taking an online survey. Videos and a detailed report about the different settlement project options can be found online at www.dnr.sc.gov/news/fishingcomp.

Trustees so far have allocated nothing toward removal of the dam owned by the Easley-Central Water District that some experts said is critical to cleaning Hartwell of the polychlorinated biphenyls.

It is the "only project that holds potential to reduce PCBs in Lake Hartwell," said Larry Dyck, a river restoration expert and Lake Hartwell Association board member. It also would open 100 miles for fish migration to the lake.

The trustees' draft Recreational Fishing Compensation Plan allocated nearly the entire \$9 million for recreational fishery enhance-

ments.

In addition to using \$3 million for the dam, the judge also recommended splitting the remaining \$6 million equally between a Water Education and Environmental Center on Lake Hartwell and recreational fishery enhancements.

Anderson stopped short of ordering action, writing that it's "questionable" whether he has that authority.

Work has started to remove two lower dams and PCB-contaminated sediment behind them, also ordered in the 2006 settlement.

"Now that work has begun, we look forward to completing it as soon as possible, said Stephen Harris, spokesman for Schlumberger Technology Corp.

However, Schlumberger "has no control or influence over the trustee process to determine projects" for the money the company paid in the 2006 settlement, Harris said.

Between 1955 and 1977, more than 400,000 pounds of PCBs were released from the former Sangamo-Weston capacitor manufacturing site in Pickens, now owned by Schlumberger, into Town Creek, a tributary of the Twelve Mile that flows into Lake Hartwell. The Environmental Protection Agency remedy is to let clean sediment flowing downstream cover the contaminated lake bottom.

"It doesn't make sense to remove two and come back and remove the third," said Brad Wyche, executive director of Upstate Forever. He said those working to clean the lake are racing the clock to find funding now that the lower dam re-

moval that stalled for three years is under way.

Workers and equipment are already in place, and removing the third dam, which is the farthest upstream, first would allow the next dam to catch any sediment spills, Wyche said.

Projects trustees funded in the draft plan are "very worthy," said state Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, "but the most pressing thing to be addressed is that third dam. Now we've got to get serious about how we can make this happen."

Martin said some state water recreation funding could be earmarked "assuming the (county legislative) delegation agrees." But it would fall far short of bridging the gap even if trustees follow the judge's recommendation, Martin said.

"It's just that extra million that the estimate (to remove the dam) went up over the course of the three years. That makes it real difficult, but we haven't given up. We're going to explore every possibility," Martin said.

State Rep. Davey Hiott, R-Pickens, said he'd "seriously consider" using the water recreation money toward removal of the third dam — if it's available. "Those kinds of monies dry up real quick in tough times," Hiott said.

Larry Hudson, chairman of the Easley-Central Water District, has said through the multiyear process that the dam can be removed provided there's no cost or interruption of service to customers.

"If we use our estimate of \$4.5 million to \$5 million, and that doesn't include removal of the dam — you're

HAVE YOUR SAY

Trustees in the settlement have scheduled a public meeting for November 17 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Anderson Civic Center.



going to have to tack on more money there — we're roughly halfway there with the judge's recommendation," Hudson said.

Public to get its say on PCB cleanup plans

By Anna Simon
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A federal judge's recommendation that \$3 million of a \$9 million legal settlement for carcinogenic PCBs in Lake Hartwell and the Twelve Mile River be used to remove a critical third dam may not be enough to pay for it.

U.S. District Judge G. Ross Anderson Jr. has pressed the parties involved in the court-ordered cleanup for estimates, which have ranged from \$3 million to \$8 million. The best estimate the judge

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could get was \$4.5 million to \$5 million.

At the moment, there's no money for the project or for an engineering study to determine the actual scope of the dam removal or its cost.

And though the judge has strongly recommended that \$3 million be set

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Judge recommends funds for dam's removal

Projects	Trustees plan	Judge's recommendation
Monitoring	\$160,000	
Stream restoration: Twelve Mile River Watershed	\$835,523	
Lake Hartwell fish habitat enhancement	\$2,800,000	\$3,000,000
Public access, fishing piers	\$1,100,000	
Hartwell Tailrace fishing access	\$300,000	
Green Pond Event Center	\$1,500,000	
Off-site recreational fishing	\$2,300,000	
Easley Central dam	\$0	\$3,000,000
Water education and environmental center	\$0	\$3,000,000